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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 CAIRO 002209

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: MUBARAK'S ANNUAL SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT OFFERS

ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND DETAILS ITS REGIONAL LEADERSHIP REF: A. CAIRO 2166 B. CAIRO 2193 Classified By: Minister-Counselor for Economic and Polit
1.(C) Key Points: -- President Mubarak's annual speech before parliament focused on economic and social safety net issues. An approach directed

2.(C) Comment: Mubarak's agenda reflects the importance of patronage and government benefits to the ruling party's bargain with the Egyptian pe

3.(C) In his annual speech to parliament on November 19, President Mubarak outlined key aspects of his government's domestic agenda, with a foc

4.(C) An experienced journalist covering the parliament, Gamal Essam El Din, called the speech typical of Mubarak's previous speeches before th

5.(SBU) Mubarak praised previous economic reform efforts and referred to Egypt's success in weathering the global financial crisis. Mubarak anr

6.(C) Mubarak committed to a third "economic stimulus" package of LE 10 billion to fund water and sanitation projects. Earlier packages totalin

7.(C) Also on Mubarak's agenda was an overhaul of Egypt's Agricultural Bank, adding services that would bring revenue and keep the bank, primar

8.(C) Mubarak largely shut the door on any key political reform legislation being introduced before the 2010 parliamentary elections. Several p

9.(C) In his speech Mubarak promised "enhanced" rights and freedoms and "entrenched democracy" as part of his "vision" for the next ten years,

10.(C) Mubarak outlined foreign policy priorities and highlighted Egypt's leadership in Africa, its focus on key regional issues such as water

11.(C) Mubarak underscored the importance of energy security and said Egypt would establish itself as a "regional energy hub." Egypt remained c